C3

11. (twice amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said billing server maintains said plurality of telecommunication transaction records in a data base.

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21. (once amended) The interactive telecommunications billing mechanism as recited in claim 14, wherein said query of said transaction data base is an ODBC-compatible query.

22. (once amended) The interactive telecommunications billing mechanism as recited in claim 14, wherein said user command is generated based upon query parameters entered by said user on a web page hosted by said web browser.

C5

30. (thrice amended) The method as recited in claim 27 wherein said step a) further comprises:

a1) providing a data server, coupled to data switches, for tracking costs for a plurality of data accounts;

a2) providing a web server, coupled to the data server, for presenting to the user transaction information; and

a3) providing the user with a customizable event monitor, coupled to the web server and to the data server, the event monitor for alerting the user when transactions meet a specified criteria.

Please add new claims 45-56 as follows:

45. (new) A method for providing a user online access to billing records related to the user, the method comprising:

storing the billing records in a data base;

receiving a command from the user over a data network;

searching the data base for individual billing records related to the user according to the command received from the user; and

displaying results of the searching to the user over the data network.

46. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein storing includes storing the billing records in the database before a bill corresponding to said billing records is issued to the user.

47. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the billing records are telecommunication billing records.

48. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the billing records relate to a web service.

49. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the billing records relate to a service selected ·from the group consisting of an Internet service, a telephone service, and a pager service.

50. (new) The method of claim 45 further comprising providing an alert to the user when a preset criteria relating to said billing records is satisfied.

51. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein said billing records relate to charges from a plurality of entities.

52. (new) The method of claim 45 wherein the billing records are associated with at least one telecommunication device, and further comprising disabling the telecommunication device when a preset criteria relating to said billing records is satisfied.

53. (new) An apparatus comprising:

a billing server for maintaining a data base of transaction records relating to a user, at least some of said transaction records relating to a service provided to the user;

the billing server including an event monitor, the event monitor being configured to determine whether said transaction records meet a user specified criteria, and to disable said service when the user specified criteria is satisfied.

54. (new) The apparatus of claim 53 wherein said service is a telecommunication service.

55. (new) The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the event monitor is further configured to provide an alert to the user when the user specified criteria is satisfied.

56. (new) The apparatus system of claim 53, wherein the transaction records are telecommunication transaction records.